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EXAMINER

ABDALLA, KHALID M

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,706	Applicant(s) WILSON, JEFFREY	
	Examiner KHALID ABDALLA	Art Unit 2419	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/24/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 29 and 38 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 29, the term " a service address " in line 7 seems to refer back to " a service address " in claim 29 line 4. If this is true it's suggested to change " a service address " to " the service address ".

Regarding claim 38 the term " a computer program " in line 1 seems to refer back to "a computer program " in claim 37 line 1. If this is true it's suggested to change "a computer program " to " the computer program ".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

For claim 37, the claim is directed to a computer program per se, which is non- statutory subject matter. The claim recites that [A computer program for implementing a method] .Thus rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to a computer program per se.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 21-36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Binns et al (US 5923733 A) in view of Liversidge et al (US 20020076025 A1).

Regarding claim 21 Binns et al discloses telecommunications services apparatus for use with a mobile telephone network (FIG. 1 shows a group message delivery system 200 and users 102, 104 and 106 connected to a telephone network 108 coln:2 lines 26-28), wherein the apparatus is configured to store for a first user addresses(a database in the group controller memory 204 that stores a group list of telephone numbers supplied by the user 102 see coln:2 lines 51-59) representing members of at least one group of users (FIG. 1 shows a group of users connected to a telephone network), said addresses being configurable by the first user (the user 102 may also construct a group list on a user terminal (not shown) such as a personal computer and upload the group list to the group message controller 202 see coln: 2 lines 56-59). Binns et al does not disclose wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the apparatus

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being thereby operable to replicate the text message to the members of that group of user, and wherein the first user may make a voice call to the same service address, the apparatus being thereby operable to initiate an audio conference with the members of that group of users. Liversidge et al from the same field or endeavor teaches(wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the apparatus being thereby operable to replicate the text message to the members of that group of users (The team member can send a message to the other participants in the communications session by typing the text message into the New message frame 358 of the IM session object 354, and clicking an appropriate icon or button (e.g. a Send button) to send the text message (368) to the collaboration services suite 2, which replicates the message to each of the other participants see[00125] lines 1-7 and fig. 21), and wherein the first user may make a voice call to the same service address, the apparatus being thereby operable to initiate an audio conference with the members of that group of users (It is also possible that the current session participants may wish to terminate the instant messaging session and continue the conversation using an alternative type of communications, such as, for example, voice communications see [00126] lines1-5)). Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the method of Liversidge et al in the system of Binns et al .the method of Binns et al can be implemented on any type of method ;wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the apparatus being thereby operable to replicate the text message to the members of that group of user, and

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wherein the first user may make a voice call to the same service address, the apparatus being thereby operable to initiate an audio conference with the members of that group of users which is taught by Liversidge et al with a motivation to provide a method and system for automatic handling of invitations to join communications sessions in a team environment.

Regarding claim22 note that Liversidge et al teaches apparatus, wherein the service address for the or each respective group of users comprises a short code (On receipt of the Make Call message in step 508, the VSP formulates an ISUP Initial Address Message (ISUP-IAM). The ISUP-IAM includes the dialed number of team member using VTE client (A). It also includes a circuit identification code (CIC) associated with the E-ISUP (A). A Destination Point Code (DPC) of the ISUP-IAM is set to the point code of an SSP1 associated with a first end of the E-ISUP (A) see [00146] lines 1-8)

Regarding claim23 note that Liversidge et al teaches apparatus, wherein a respective service address determines a particular group of users for each individual first user, permitting each first user to have personal group definitions (the team member using VTE client (A) is provided telephone service by an SSP (X). The message is therefore forwarded through the network in step 512 to the SSP (X). On receipt of the message, the SSP (X) checks the availability of the subscriber line associated with the team member using VTE client (A) and, finding the line available, applies ringing to the line in step 514. Thereafter, the SSP (X) returns an ISUP Address see [00147] lines 1-8).

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Regarding claim 24 note that Binns et al discloses apparatus, including a database storing addresses of the or each group of users(a database in the group controller memory 204 that stores a group list of telephone numbers supplied by the user 102 see coln:2 lines 51-59),

Also note that Liversidge et al teach; wherein the calling line identity of the first user is detected and the particular group of users is determined on the basis of the service address and the detected calling line identity.

(On receipt of the ISUP-ANM, the VSP sends a Call Created message through the data packet network in step 704 to indicate that the team member using VTE client (B) is now connected to the conference bridge. The VTE server responds by sending an Add message (step 706) to the conference bridge. The Add message specifies the session ID, and may also specify the dialed number. The conference bridge responds in step 800 by joining the call associated with the team member using VTE client (A) with the connection associated with the team member using VTE client (B), and immediately thereafter provides notification that a party has joined the conference call see [00162] and FIG.28a)

Regarding claim25 note that Liversidge et al teach apparatus, including an address configuring means (As shown in FIG. 1, the collaboration services suite 2 includes a database 6 in which information concerning each team member is stored. This information includes a respective personal identifier 8 of each team member, a respective personal profile 10 relating to a role and/or environment of the team member see [0062] lines 6-11) responsive to receipt of an identifier in a text message (The text

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device displays a communications session type in an invitation window and a personal identifier associated with a team member that sent the invitation see [0018] lines 3-6) to manage the addresses of a respective group of users, the text message including one or more addresses of the respective group of users (The team member can send a message to the other participants in the communications session by typing the text message into the New message frame 358 of the IM session object 354, and clicking an appropriate icon or button (e.g. a Send button) to send the text message (368) to the collaboration services suite 2, which replicates the message to each of the other participants that inherent address of the respective users see[00125] lines 1-7 and fig. 21).

Regarding claim 26 note that Liversidge et al teach apparatus, wherein the address configuring means (As shown in FIG. 1, the collaboration services suite 2 includes a database 6 in which information concerning each team member is stored. This information includes a respective personal identifier 8 of each team member, a respective personal profile 10 relating to a role and/or environment of the team member see [0062] lines 6-11) is also responsive to the presence of the same or a different identifier between addresses in the text message, to interpret the identifier as a delimiter between the addresses (the Presence Server 42 maintains a status table 43 for controlling the detection and propagation of team member status and availability information. In general, the status table 43 contains, for each member of the team, a logged-in frame 43a; a devices frame 43b, and a watcher's frame 43c. The logged-in frame 43a stores a flag (e.g. a binary "0" or "1") indicating whether or not the respective

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team member is currently logged-in to the collaboration services suite 2. The devices frame 43b contains device identifiers and associated address information (e.g. PSTN destination number, IP addresses, e-mail address) for each communications device identified by the respective team member in their current personal profile see [0067] lines 1-13).

Regarding claim27 note that Liversidge et al teach apparatus, wherein the or each identifier is a specific key character (As shown in FIG. 8, a Log-In Request message 124 containing the personal identifier of the user, and a password, is forwarded by the VTE client application 44a to the VTE server 40. The VTE server 40 then uses the personal identifier and the password to validate the user (at 126), and upon successful validation, queries the client database (at 128) to obtain communications information corresponding to the most recently selected current personal profile of the user see [0083] lines 5-16).

Regarding claim28 note that Liversidge et al teach apparatus, including means for sending a text message to a selected one of the groups of users (The team member can send a message to the other participants in the communications session by typing the text message into the New message frame 358 of the IM session object 354, and clicking an appropriate icon or button (e.g. a Send button) to send the text message (368) to the collaboration services suite 2, which replicates the message to each of the other participants see[00125] lines 1-7 and fig. 21) inviting each user in the group to join an audio conference, the text message including an address for joining the audio conference (It is also possible that the current session participants may wish to

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terminate the instant messaging session and continue the conversation using an alternative type of communications, such as, for example, voice communications see [00126] lines1-5).

Regarding claim 29 Binns et al discloses a telecommunications services method for a mobile telephone network (FIG. 1 shows a group message delivery system 200 and users 102, 104 and 106 connected to a telephone network 108 coln:2 lines 26-28) , the method comprising storing for a first user addresses (a database in the group controller memory 204 that stores a group list of telephone numbers supplied by the user 102 see coln:2 lines 51-59) representing members of at least one group of users (FIG. 1 shows a group of users connected to a telephone network), said addresses being configurable by the first user (the user 102 may also construct a group list on a user terminal (not shown) such as a personal computer and upload the group list to the group message controller 202 see coln: 2 lines 56-59).

Binns et al does not discloses (i) wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the text message being thereby replicated to the members of that group of users, and/or (ii) wherein the first user may make a voice call to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, an audio conference thereby being initiated with the members of that group of users. Liversidge et al from the same field or endeavor teaches (i) wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the text message being thereby replicated to the members of that group of users, and/or (The team member can send a

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message to the other participants in the communications session by typing the text message into the New message frame 358 of the IM session object 354, and clicking an appropriate icon or button (e.g. a Send button) to send the text message (368) to the collaboration services suite 2, which replicates the message to each of the other participants see [00125] lines 1-7 and fig. 21), (ii) wherein the first user may make a voice call to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, an audio conference thereby being initiated with the members of that group of users (It is also possible that the current session participants may wish to terminate the instant messaging session and continue the conversation using an alternative type of communications, such as, for example, voice communications see [00126] lines 1-5). Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the method of Liversidge et al in the system of Binns et al .the method of Liversidge et al can be implemented on any type of method ; (i) wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the text message being thereby replicated to the members of that group of users, and/or (ii) wherein the first user may make a voice call to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, an audio conference thereby being initiated with the members of that group of users which is taught by Liversidge et al with a motivation to provide a method and system for automatic handling of invitations to join communications sessions in a team environment.

Regarding claim 30 note that Liversidge et al teaches a method, wherein the service address for the or each respective group of users comprises a short code (On receipt of

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the Make Call message in step 508, the VSP formulates an ISUP Initial Address Message (ISUP-IAM). The ISUP-IAM includes the dialed number of team member using VTE client (A). It also includes a circuit identification code (CIC) associated with the E-ISUP (A). A Destination Point Code (DPC) of the ISUP-IAM is set to the point code of an SSP1 associated with a first end of the E-ISUP (A) see [00146] lines 1-8)

Regarding claim 31 note that Liversidge et al teaches a method, wherein a respective service address determines a particular group of users for each individual first user, permitting each first user to have personal group definitions (the team member using VTE client (A) is provided telephone service by an SSP (X). The message is therefore forwarded through the network in step 512 to the SSP (X). On receipt of the message, the SSP (X) checks the availability of the subscriber line associated with the team member using VTE client (A) and, finding the line available, applies ringing to the line in step 514. Thereafter, the SSP (X) returns an ISUP Address see [00147] lines 1-8).

Regarding claim 32 note that Binns et al discloses a method, including storing addresses of the or each group of users in a database (a database in the group controller memory 204 that stores a group list of telephone numbers supplied by the user 102 see coln:2 lines 51-59),

Also note that Liversidge et al teach the method, and wherein the calling line identity of the first user is detected and the particular group of users is determined on the basis of the service address and the detected calling line identity (On receipt of the ISUP-ANM, the VSP sends a Call Created message through the data packet network in step 704 to

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indicate that the team member using VTE client (B) is now connected to the conference bridge. The VTE server responds by sending an Add message (step 706) to the conference bridge. The Add message specifies the session ID, and may also specify the dialed number. The conference bridge responds in step 800 by joining the call associated with the team member using VTE client (A) with the connection associated with the team member using VTE client (B), and immediately thereafter provides notification that a party has joined the conference call see [00162] and FIG. 28a).

Regarding claim 33 note that Liversidge et al teach a method according, including an address configuring step (As shown in FIG. 1, the collaboration services suite 2 includes a database 6 in which information concerning each team member is stored. This information includes a respective personal identifier 8 of each team member, a respective personal profile 10 relating to a role and/or environment of the team member see [0062] lines 6-11) responsive to receipt of an identifier in a text message (The text device displays a communications session type in an invitation window and a personal identifier associated with a team member that sent the invitation see [0018] lines 3-6) to manage the addresses of a respective group of users, the text message including one or more addresses of the respective group of users (The team member can send a message to the other participants in the communications session by typing the text message into the New message frame 358 of the IM session object 354, and clicking an appropriate icon or button (e.g. a Send button) to send the text message (368) to the collaboration services suite 2, which replicates the message to each of the other

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participants that inherent address of the respective users see [00125] lines 1-7 and fig. 21).

Regarding claim 34 note that Liversidge et al teach a method, wherein the address configuring step (As shown in FIG. 1, the collaboration services suite 2 includes a database 6 in which information concerning each team member is stored. This information includes a respective personal identifier 8 of each team member, a respective personal profile 10 relating to a role and/or environment of the team member see [0062] lines 6-11) is also responsive to the presence of the same or a different identifier between addresses in the text message, to interpret the identifier as a delimiter between the addresses (the Presence Server 42 maintains a status table 43 for controlling the detection and propagation of team member status and availability information. In general, the status table 43 contains, for each member of the team, a logged-in frame 43a; a devices frame 43b, and a watcher's frame 43c. The logged-in frame 43a stores a flag (e.g. a binary "0" or "1") indicating whether or not the respective team member is currently logged-in to the collaboration services suite 2. The devices frame 43b contains device identifiers and associated address information (e.g. PSTN destination number, IP addresses, e-mail address) for each communications device identified by the respective team member in their current personal profile see [0067] lines 1-13).

Regarding claim 35 note that Liversidge et al teach a method, wherein the or each identifier is a specific key character (As shown in FIG. 8, a Log-InRequest message 124 containing the personal identifier of the user, and a password, is forwarded by the VTE

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client application 44a to the VTE server 40. The VTE server 40 then uses the personal identifier and the password to validate the user (at 126), and upon successful validation, queries the client database (at 128) to obtain communications information corresponding to the most recently selected current personal profile of the user see [0083] lines 5-16).

Regarding claim 36 note that Liversidge et al teach a method, including sending a text message to a selected one of the groups of users (The team member can send a message to the other participants in the communications session by typing the text message into the New message frame 358 of the IM session object 354, and clicking an appropriate icon or button (e.g. a Send button) to send the text message (368) to the collaboration services suite 2, which replicates the message to each of the other participants see [00125] lines 1-7 and fig. 21) inviting each user in the group to join an audio conference, the text message including an address for joining the audio conference (It is also possible that the current session participants may wish to terminate the instant messaging session and continue the conversation using an alternative type of communications, such as, for example, voice communications see [00126] lines 1-5).

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6. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Binns et al (US 5923733 A) in view of Liversidge et al (US 20020076025 A1) as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Tanigawa et al (US 20040103149 A1).

Regarding claim 38 Binns et al and Liversidge et al do not disclose a storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 37. Tanigawa et al from the same field or endeavor teaches (The CPU 11 implements processes of the modules described above by execution of the communication program 9. These program modules can be stored in the storage unit 12 in advance or downloaded from another apparatus by way of the packet network 1. As another alternative, the program modules are installed into the storage unit 12 from a mountable and demountable storage medium not shown in the figure see [0064] lines 1-8). Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the method of Tanigawa et al in the system of Binns et al and Liversidge et al with a motivation to provide a communication control system supporting multicast communication networks.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(US 20040162144 A1), (Loose et al) discloses, Communication between players at gaming terminals.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KHALID ABDALLA whose telephone number is (571)270-7526. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dang Ton can be reached on 571-272-3171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K. A./

Examiner, Art Unit 2419

/DANG T TON/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2419/D. T. T./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2419